

Washington, DC – Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04) today listened to Minnesotaleaders championing service-learning as a successful strategy to enhance educational achievement and connect young people to the community during a field hearing in collaboration with the National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) and Minnesota Campus Compact (MCC).

“Service-learning programs are invaluable tools for educators because of the benefits to both teaching and learning. President Obama is to be commended for working with Congress to prioritize national service and put education back at the top of our nation’s agenda. The federal funding for service-learning included in the *Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act* and *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* are important commitments in Americans committed to service,” said **Congresswoman Betty McCollum**.

With a major focus on K-12 service-learning practices and higher education, the briefing highlighted federal investments in the *Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act*, which President Obama will sign into law in the coming weeks. The legislation triples volunteerism opportunities for national service for 250,000 Americans, and establishes a new service corps and a Summer of Service opportunity for middle and high school students.

“We are excited at the prospect of the significant legislation under consideration this congressional session, knowing it could bode well for the future of service-learning and education reform,” said **Jim Kielsmeier, CEO/President, National Youth Leadership Council**.

"Students who participate in engaged forms of learning and community-based action make different choices, react to their experiences in more thoughtful ways and become more confident in their own ability to respond effectively to new challenges that they encounter in other aspects of their lives," said **Judith Ramaley, President of Winona State University and Minnesota Campus Compact Board Chair**.

“Through service-learning, students are playing a key role and realizing the impact of their efforts to address the most pressing issues we face related to our economy, our environment, and our community,” said **Jim Scheibel, Interim Executive Director of Minnesota Campus Compact and NYLC Board Chair**.

"As a school implementing service-learning school-wide, Webster Elementary is dedicated to the practices of community engagement and civic responsibility. Not in four decades has this country seen such a call for action from the President, Congress, and other leaders such as the NYLC and the MCC," said **Lori Simon, Principal, Webster Magnet Elementary School, St. Paul, MN.**

Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-4) serves on the House Appropriations & Budget Committees.

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